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PROMISE JOURNAL

LOVE

is...

PROMISE JOURNAL

...inspired by life

Sincere Love

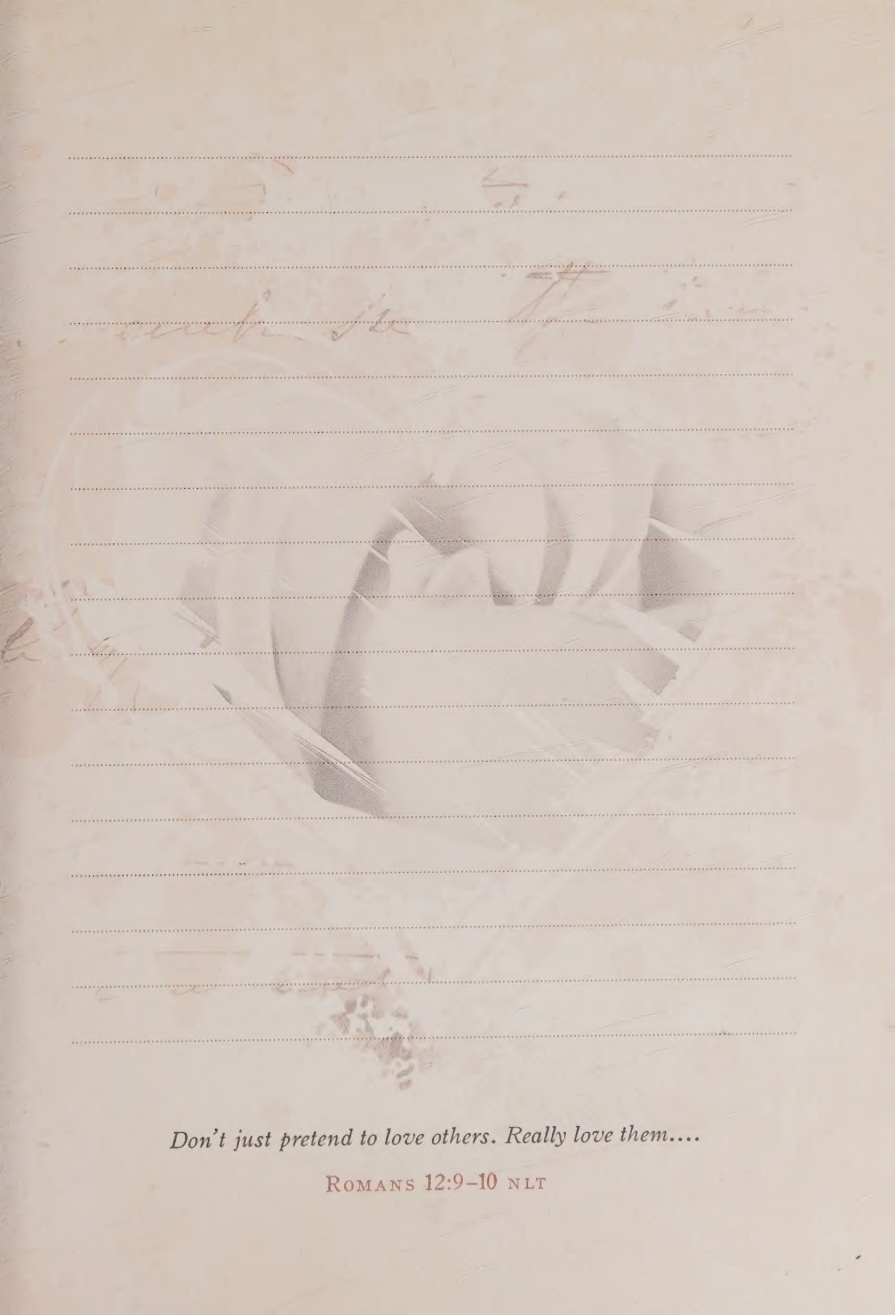
Sooner or later we begin to understand that love is more than verses on valentines and romance in the movies. We begin to know that love is here and now, real and true, the most important thing in our lives. For love is the creator of our favorite memories and the foundation of our fondest dreams. Love is a promise that is always kept, a fortune that can never be spent, a seed that can flourish in even the most unlikely of places. And this radiance that never fades, this mysterious and magical joy, is the greatest treasure of all—one known only by those who love.

When we really love others, we accept them as they are. We make our love visible through little acts of kindness, shared activities, words of praise and thanks, and our willingness to get along with them.

Edward E. Ford

Love makes all labor light. We serve with enthusiasm where we love with sincerity.

Hannah More



Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them....

ROMANS 12:9–10 NLT

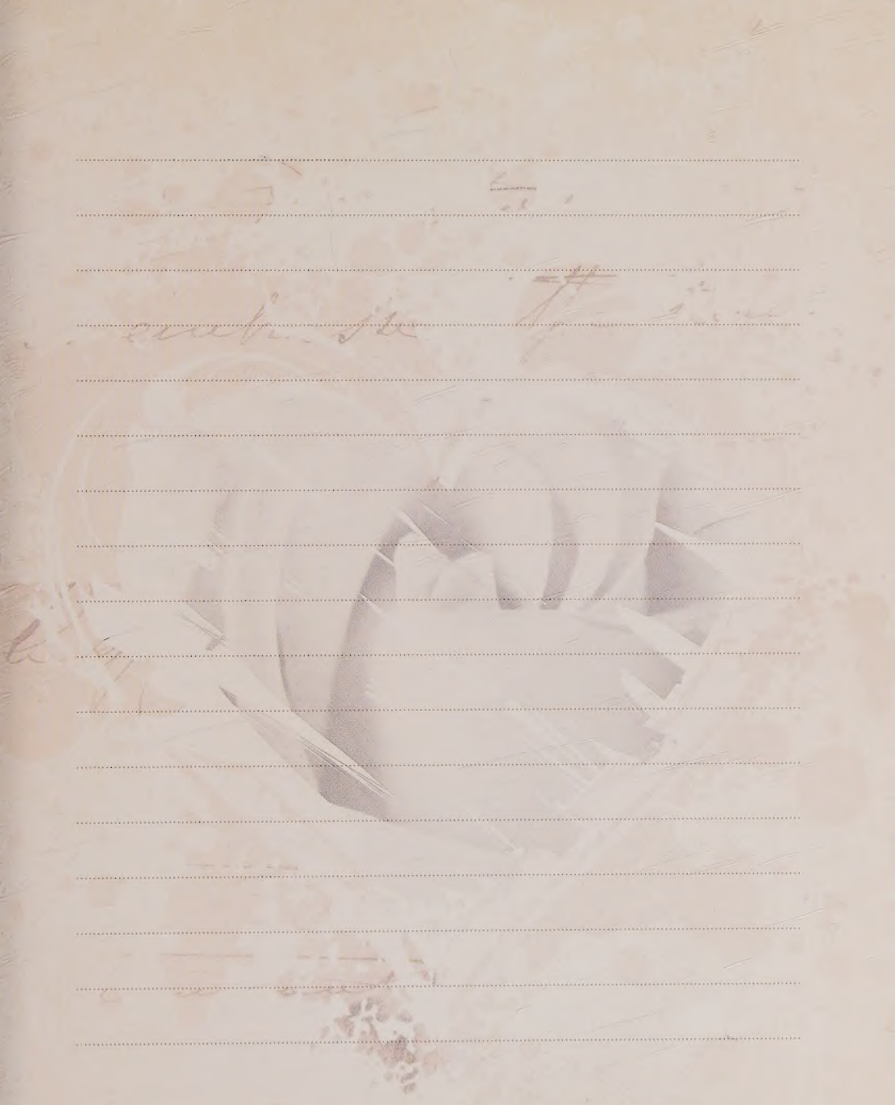
Love Is...

I may speak in different languages of people or even angels. But if I do not have love, I am only a noisy bell or a crashing cymbal. I may have the gift of prophecy. I may understand all the secret things of God and have all knowledge, and I may have faith so great I can move mountains. But even with all these things, if I do not have love, then I am nothing. I may give away everything I have, and I may even give my body as an offering to be burned. But I gain nothing if I do not have love.

Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous, it does not brag, and it is not proud. Love is not rude, is not selfish, and does not get upset with others. Love does not count up wrongs that have been done. Love takes no pleasure in evil but rejoices over the truth. Love patiently accepts all things. It always trusts, always hopes, and always endures.

Love never ends.

1 Corinthians 13:1–8 NCV



When the heart is pure it cannot help loving, because it has discovered the source of love, which is God.

JEAN-MARIE BAPTISTE VIANNEY

Love Beyond Words

True love possesses the ability to see beyond.
In that sense we might say that love has X-ray vision.
It goes beyond mere words. It sees beneath the veneer.
Love focuses on the soul. Love sees another's soul
in great need of help and sets compassion to work.

CHARLES SWINDOLL

True gratitude, like true love, must find
expression in acts, not words.

R. MILDRED BARKER

Love is an action—it means doing, serving, giving.

PAT WILLIAMS

All the beautiful sentiments in the world weigh
less than a simple lovely action.

JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL

A good deed is never lost; he who sows courtesy reaps
friendship, and he who plants kindness gathers love.

BASIL OF CAESAREA

I am praying that you will put into action the generosity that comes from your faith as you understand and experience all the good things we have in Christ.

PHILEMON 1:6 NLT

Live God's Way

It is obvious what kind of life develops out of trying to get your own way all the time: repetitive, loveless, cheap sex;...emotional garbage; frenzied and joyless grabs for happiness;...all-consuming-yet-never-satisfied wants; a brutal temper; an impotence to love or be loved; divided homes and divided lives; small-minded and lopsided pursuits;...uncontrolled and uncontrollable addictions.... I could go on.... If you use your freedom this way, you will not inherit God's kingdom.

But what happens when we live God's way? He brings gifts into our lives, much the same way that fruit appears in an orchard—things like affection for others, exuberance about life, serenity. We develop a willingness to stick with things, a sense of compassion in the heart, and a conviction that a basic holiness permeates things and people. We find ourselves involved in loyal commitments, not needing to force our way in life, able to marshal and direct our energies wisely.

GALATIANS 5:19–23 THE MESSAGE

If God is not lost in our lives, if goodness is not lost in our lives, if memories are not lost in our lives, then we will have an easier time of finding our way to personal happiness.

CHRISTOPHR DE VINCK

Fulfilling Our Desire

God is not only the answer to a thousand needs,
He is the answer to a thousand wants. He is the
fulfillment of our chief desire in all of life. For whether
or not we've ever recognized it, what we desire is
unfailing love. Oh, God, awake our souls to see—
You are what we want, not just what we need.
Yes, our life's protection, but also our heart's affection.
Yes, our soul's salvation, but also our heart's exhilaration.
Unfailing love. A love that will not let me go!

BETH MOORE

God is every moment totally aware of each one of us.
Totally aware in intense concentration and love....
No one passes through any area of life, happy
or tragic, without the attention of God with him.

EUGENIA PRICE

God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others.

2 Corinthians 9:8 NLT

Say It with Love

If there's something you need to say to
your loved one, remember to say it lovingly,
as if holding his heart in your hands.

ELLEN SUE STERN

Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your
words will be an encouragement to those who hear them....
Be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another,
just as God through Christ has forgiven you.

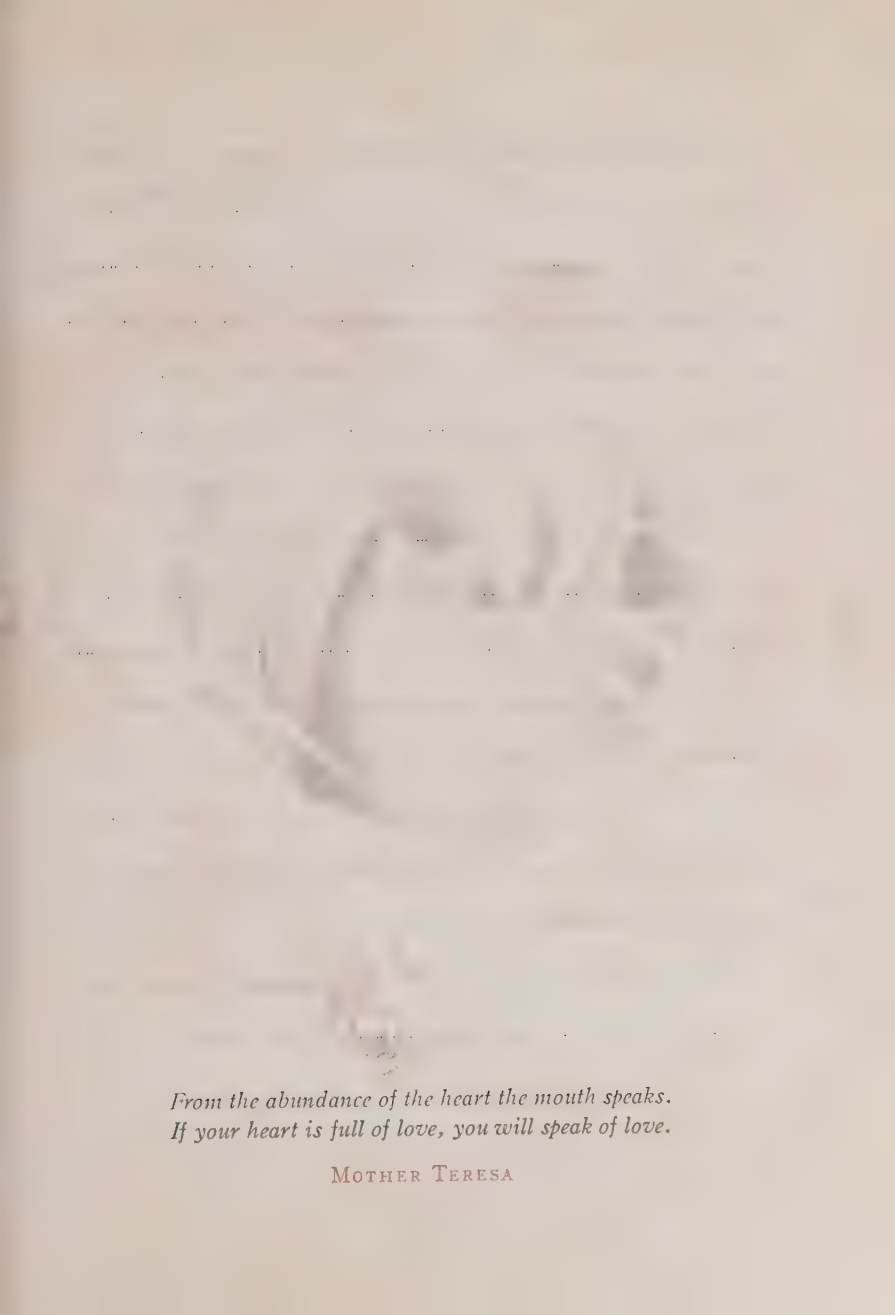
EPHESIANS 4:29, 32 NLT

Kindness is tenderness, kindness is love....
Kindness comes very close to the benevolence of God.

RANDOLPH RAY

We prove ourselves by our purity, our understanding,
our patience, our kindness, by the Holy Spirit within us,
and by our sincere love.

2 CORINTHIANS 6:6 NLT



From the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.
If your heart is full of love, you will speak of love.

MOTHER TERESA

Pay It Forward

The greatest thing...a person can do for his or her heavenly Father is to be kind to some of His other children. I wonder why it is we are not all kinder than we are? How much the world needs it. How easily it is done. How instantaneously it acts. How infallibly it is remembered. How superabundantly it pays itself back.

HENRY DRUMMOND

It is in loving—not in being loved—
The heart is blessed;
It is in giving—not in seeking gifts—
We find our quest.

An instant of pure love is more precious to God...
than all other good works together,
though it may seem as if nothing were done.

JOHN OF THE CROSS

When you put on a luncheon or a banquet...invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. Then...God will reward you for inviting those who could not repay you.

LUKE 14:12–14 NLT

Personal Trainer

Do not follow foolish stories that disagree with God's truth, but train yourself to serve God. Training your body helps you in some ways, but serving God helps you in every way by bringing you blessings in this life and in the future life, too.... Command and teach these things. Do not let anyone treat you as if you are unimportant because you are young. Instead, be an example to the believers with your words, your actions, your love, your faith, and your pure life.

1 Timothy 4:7–8, 11–12 NCV

Now may God himself, the God of peace, make you pure, belonging only to him. May your whole self—spirit, soul, and body—be kept safe and without fault when our Lord Jesus Christ comes. You can trust the One who calls you to do that for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:23–24 NCV

God's training is for right now, not for some mist-shrouded future. His purpose is for this minute....
This moment is the future for which you've been preparing!

Joni Eareckson Tada

When Two People Love Each Other

When two people love each other deeply and are committed for life, they have usually developed a great volume of understandings between them that would be considered insignificant to anyone else.

James Dobson

A man-woman relationship outside of marriage doesn't have the commitment of marriage. It doesn't have the permanence. It can never achieve the depth that comes from total sharing, from working together toward common goals year after year, from knowing that you're playing the game for keeps.

Ruth Stafford Peale

Love creates a special world for two people. Everything within it is guarded and preserved by commitment, faithfulness, and trust. Everything about it is enriched and endeared by kindness, gentleness, and care.

"A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one." Since they are no longer two but one, let no one split apart what God has joined together.

MATTHEW 19:5–6 NLT

Unfailing Love

The LORD looks down from heaven and sees the whole human race. From his throne he observes all who live on the earth. He made their hearts, so he understands everything they do....

But the LORD watches over those who fear him, those who rely on his unfailing love. He rescues them from death and keeps them alive in times of famine.

We put our hope in the LORD. He is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. Let your unfailing love surround us, LORD, for our hope is in you alone.

PSALM 33:13–15, 18–22 NLT

The LORD says, "I will guide you along
the best pathway for your life.
I will advise you and watch over you....
Unfailing love surrounds those who trust the LORD."

PSALM 32:8, 10 NLT

I know that He who is far outside the whole creation
Takes me within Himself and hides me in His arms.

SYMEON

The Best Thing

Love is not getting, but giving. Not a wild dream
of pleasure and a madness of desire—oh, no—
love is not that! It is goodness and honor and peace
and pure living—yes, love is that and it is the best thing
in the world and the thing that lives the longest.

HENRY VAN DYKE

To love and to be loved the wise would give...
All that for which alone the unwise live.

WALTER S. LANDOR

Love seeks one thing only: the good of the one loved.
It leaves all the other secondary effects to take care
of themselves. Love, therefore, is its own reward.

THOMAS MERTON

The LORD has told you...what is good; he has told you what he wants from you: to do what is right to other people, love being kind to others, and live humbly, obeying your God.

MICAH 6:8 NCV

New Life Starting Now

We're being shown how to...take on a God-filled, God-honoring life. This new life is starting right now, and is whetting our appetites for the glorious day when our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, appears. He offered himself as a sacrifice to free us from a dark, rebellious life into this good, pure life, making us a people he can be proud of, energetic in goodness.

TITUS 2:12–14 THE MESSAGE

Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another.

HEBREWS 10:22–25 NIV

Life begins each morning.... Each morning is the open door to a new world—new vistas, new aims, new tryings.

LEIGH MITCHELL HODGES

Response of the Heart

Love is the response of the heart to the overwhelming goodness of God, so come in simply and speak to Him in unvarnished honesty. You may be so awestruck and full of love at His presence that words do not come. This is all right!

RICHARD J. FOSTER

Fantastic changes can be made in feelings with an honest, heart-to-heart talk. For in the presence of melted hearts wrongs are forgiven and hurt hearts healed.

DORIS M. MCDOWELL

The reflective life is a life that is attentive, receptive, and responsive to what God is doing in us and around us. It's a life that asks God to reach into our heart, allowing Him to touch us there.

KEN GIRE

Gratitude is the homage of the heart, rendered to God for His goodness.

NATHANIEL PARKER WILLIS

My heart has heard you say, "Come and talk with me."
And my heart responds, "LORD, I am coming."

PSALM 27:8 NLT

What Really Matters

So this is my prayer: that your love will flourish
and that you will not only love much but well.
Learn to love appropriately. You need to use
your head and test your feelings so that your
love is sincere and intelligent, not sentimental gush.
Live a lover's life, circumspect and exemplary,
a life Jesus will be proud of: bountiful in fruits from
the soul, making Jesus Christ attractive to all, getting
everyone involved in the glory and praise of God.

PHILIPPIANS 1:9–11 THE MESSAGE

Suppose someone has enough to live and sees
a brother or sister in need, but does not help.
Then God's love is not living in that person.
My children, we should love people not only
with words and talk, but by our actions
and true caring. This is the way we know
that we belong to the way of truth.

1 JOHN 3:17–19 NCV

Service is the rent we each pay for living. It is not something to do in your spare time; it is the very purpose of life.

MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN

An Inspiration to Love

Look deep within yourself and recognize what brings
life and grace into your heart. It is this that
can be shared with those around you.
You are loved by God. This is an inspiration to love.

CHRISTOPHER DE VINCK

Life is what we are alive to. It is not length but breadth....
Be alive to...goodness, kindness, purity, love, history,
poetry, music, flowers, stars, God, and eternal hope.

MALTBIE D. BABCOCK

The reason we can dare to risk loving others is that
"God has for Christ's sake loved us." Think of it!
We are loved eternally, totally, individually,
unreservedly! Nothing can take God's love away.

GLORIA GAITHER

If you are seeking after God, you may be sure of this:
God is seeking you much more. He is the Lover, and you
are His beloved. He has promised Himself to you.

JOHN OF THE CROSS

I love those who love me,
and those who seek me find me.

PROVERBS 8:17 NIV

Surprise Us with Love

Surprise us with love at daybreak;
then we'll skip and dance all the day long....
Let your servants see what you're best at—
the ways you rule and bless your children.
And let the loveliness of our Lord, our God, rest on us,
confirming the work that we do.
Oh, yes. Affirm the work that we do!

PSALM 90:14, 16–17 THE MESSAGE

But me he caught—reached all the way
from sky to sea; he pulled me out
Of that ocean of hate, that enemy chaos,
the void in which I was drowning.
They hit me when I was down,
but GOD stuck by me.
He stood me up on a wide-open field;
I stood there saved—surprised to be loved!

PSALM 18:16–19 THE MESSAGE

Into all our lives, in many simple, familiar...ways, God infuses this element of joy from the surprises of life, which unexpectedly brighten our days, and fill our eyes with light.

SAMUEL LONGFELLOW

His Touch

The Lord's chief desire is to reveal Himself to you and, in order for Him to do that, He gives you abundant grace. The Lord gives you the experience of enjoying His presence. He touches you, and His touch is so delightful that, more than ever, you are drawn inwardly to Him.

MADAME JEANNE GUYON

Those who draw near to God
One step through doubtings dim,
God will advance a mile
In blazing light to them.

The sunshine dancing on the water, the lulling sound of waves rolling into the shore, the glittering stars against the night sky—all God's light, His warmth, His majesty—our Father of light reaching out to us, drawing each of us closer to Himself.

God loved us, and through his grace he gave us a good hope and encouragement that continues forever.

2 Thessalonians 2:17 NCV

Generous in Love

For God is sheer beauty, all-generous in love,
loyal always and ever.

Psalm 100:5 THE MESSAGE

Every path he guides us on is fragrant with
his loving-kindness and his truth.

Psalm 25:10 TLB

May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each
other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you.

1 Thessalonians 3:12 NIV

If you have any encouragement from being united
with Christ, if any comfort from his love...then make
my joy complete by being like-minded, having the
same love, being one in spirit and purpose.

Philippians 2:1–2 NIV

The Creator thinks enough of you to have sent Someone
very special so that you might have life—abundantly,
joyfully, completely, and victoriously.

Be happy with what you have and are, be generous with both, and you won't have to hunt for happiness.

William E. Gladstone

I'm My Father's Child

Don't we all long for a father who, even though our mistakes are written all over the wall, will love us anyway? Don't we want a father who cares for us in spite of our failures? We do have that type of a father. A father who is at His best when we are at our worst. A father whose grace is strongest when our devotion is weakest.

MAX LUCADO

If God, like a father, denies us what we want now, it is in order to give us some far better thing later on. The will of God, we can rest assured, is invariably a better thing.

ELISABETH ELLIOT

God is a rich and bountiful Father, and He does not forget His children, nor withhold from them anything which it would be to their advantage to receive.

J. K. MACLEAN

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!

1 John 3:1 NIV

Tender Love

For all God's words are right, and everything he does is worthy of our trust. He loves whatever is just and good; the earth is filled with his tender love.

PSALM 33:4–5 TLB

This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life.

JOHN 3:16 THE MESSAGE

Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly.

MATTHEW 11:28–30 THE MESSAGE

May the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God.

2 THESSALONIANS 3:5 NASB

He is everything that is good and comfortable for us.
He is our clothing that for love wraps us, clasps us,
and all surrounds us for tender love.

JULIAN OF NORWICH

Love Expressed

Affection is not much good unless it is expressed. What's more, I have a notion that unexpressed feelings have a tendency to shrink, wither, and ultimately die. Putting an emotion into words gives it a life and a reality that otherwise it doesn't have.

Sir Arthur Gordon

Those who are steadily learning how to love are enabled to do this because the very love of God Himself has been put into our hearts. We do not have to whip up feelings of affection or emotion which we might recognize as love. Love is already there if Christ is there.

Eugenia Price

Some emotions don't make a lot of noise.
It's hard to hear pride.
Caring is real faint—like a heartbeat.
And pure love—why, some days it's so quiet,
You don't even know it's there.

Erma Bombeck

The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

GALATIANS 5:6 NIV

The Lovingkindness of God

The LORD is my light and my salvation—
whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold
of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?...
One thing I ask of the LORD, this is what I seek:
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the
days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the
LORD and to seek him in his temple. For in the
day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling;
he will hide me in the shelter of his tabernacle and
set me high upon a rock.... I am still confident
of this: I will see the goodness of the LORD in
the land of the living. Wait for the LORD;
be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.

PSALM 27:1, 4–5, 13–14 NIV

For Your lovingkindness is before my eyes,
and I have walked in Your truth.

PSALM 26:3 NASB

We may...depend upon God's promises, for...He will be as good as His word. He is so kind that He cannot deceive us, so true that He cannot break His promise.

MATTHEW HENRY

The Intimacy of God

Our joy will be complete if we remain in His love—for His love is personal, intimate, real, living, delicate, faithful love.

MOTHER TERESA

God reads the secrets of the heart. God reads its most intimate feelings, even those which we are not aware of.

JEAN-NICHOLAS GROU

It's usually through our hard times, the unexpected and not-according-to-plan times, that we experience God in more intimate ways. We discover an unquenchable longing to know Him more. It's a passion that isn't concerned that life fall within certain predictable lines, but a passion that pursues God and knows He is relentless in His pursuit of each one of us.

WENDY MOORE

That is God's call to us—simply to be people who are content to live close to Him and to renew the kind of life in which the closeness is felt and experienced.

THOMAS MERTON

Come close to God, and God will come close to you.... Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up in honor.

JAMES 4:8, 10 NLT

At Home in His Love

Make your home in me just as I do in you. In the same way that a branch can't bear grapes by itself but only by being joined to the vine, you can't bear fruit unless you are joined with me. I am the Vine, you are the branches. When you're joined with me and I with you, the relation intimate and organic, the harvest is sure to be abundant. Separated, you can't produce a thing.... But if you make yourselves at home with me and my words are at home in you, you can be sure that whatever you ask will be listened to and acted upon.... I've loved you the way my Father has loved me. Make yourselves at home in my love.

JOHN 15:4–5, 7, 9 THE MESSAGE

This is and has been the Father's work from the beginning—
to bring us into the home of His heart.

GEORGE MACDONALD

It Doesn't Matter What

It's just a beautiful thing. It's God's grace, because He knows my heart, and He knows I'm not perfect, but He still chooses to love me and use me.

JEFF FRANKENSTEIN

The abundant life that Jesus talked about begins with the unfathomable Good News put simply: My dear child, I love you anyway.

ALICE CHAPIN

Nothing we can do will make the Father love us less; nothing we do can make Him love us more. He loves us unconditionally with an everlasting love. All He asks of us is that we respond to Him with the free will that He has given to us.

NANCIE CARMICHAEL

No matter what our past may have held, and no matter how many future days we have, God stands beside us and loves us.

GARY SMALLEY AND JOHN TRENT

I have loved you with an everlasting love;
I have drawn you with loving-kindness.

JEREMIAH 31:3 NIV

Trust in His Love

Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow,
nor reap nor gather into barns,
and yet your heavenly Father feeds them.
Are you not worth much more than they?

And who of you by being worried can add a
single hour to his life? And why are you worried
about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field
grow; they do not toil nor do they spin, yet I say
to you that not even Solomon in all his glory
clothed himself like one of these. But if God
so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today
and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace,
will He not much more clothe you? You of little faith!

Do not worry then, saying, "What will we eat?" or
"What will we drink?" or "What will we wear for
clothing?" For...your heavenly Father knows that you
need all these things. But seek first His kingdom and His
righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

MATTHEW 6:26–33 NASB

Trust the past to the mercy of God, the present to His love, and the future to His Providence.

AUGUSTINE

God Knows Me

What matters supremely is not the fact that I know God, but the larger fact which underlies it—the fact that *He knows me*. I am graven on the palms of His hands. I am never out of His mind. All my knowledge of Him depends on His sustained initiative in knowing me. I know Him because He first knew me, and continues to know me.

J. I. Packer

Joy comes from knowing God loves me and knows who I am and where I'm going... that my future is secure as I rest in Him.

James Dobson

In those times I can't seem to find God, I rest in the assurance He knows how to find me.

Neva Coyle

Dear friends, we should love each other, because love comes from God.
Everyone who loves has become God's child and knows God.
Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

1 John 4:7–8 NCV

Really Live

God, your God, will cut away the thick calluses on your heart...freeing you to love God, your God, with your whole heart and soul and live, really live.

Deuteronomy 30:6–7 THE MESSAGE

How you do something and the attitude with which you do it are usually even more important than what you do.... Often we have no choice about doing things, but we can always choose how to do them. And that...can make all the difference in your daily life.

Norman Vincent Peale

Love God, your God. Walk in his ways. Keep his commandments, regulations, and rules so that you will live, really live, live exuberantly, blessed by God.... I place before you Life and Death, Blessing and Curse. Choose life so that you and your children will live. And love God, your God, listening obediently to him, firmly embracing him. Oh yes, he is life itself.

Deuteronomy 30:16, 19–20 THE MESSAGE

I asked God for all things that I might enjoy life.
He gave me life that I might enjoy all things.

Genuine Heart-Hunger

Genuine heart-hunger, accompanied by sincere seeking after eternal values, does not go unrewarded.

JUSTINE KNIGHT

The heart is rich when it is content, and it is always content when its desires are fixed on God. Nothing can bring greater happiness than doing God's will for the love of God.

MIGUEL FEBRES CORDERO-MUÑOZ

The overflowing life does not just happen. It is only as our own deep thirst is quenched, only as we are filled ourselves, that we can be channels through which His overflow reaches other lives.

GRACE STRICKER DAWSON

Come and sit and ask Him whatever is on your heart. No question is too small, no riddle too simple. He has all the time in the world.

MAX LUCADO

The place where God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet.

FREDERICK BUECHNER

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

MATTHEW 5:6 NASB

Live in Harmony

Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another;
be sympathetic, love..., be compassionate and humble.
Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult,
but with blessing, because to this you
were called so that you may inherit a blessing.

1 Peter 3:8–9 NIV

Love comes while we rest against our Father's chest.
Joy comes when we catch the rhythms of His heart.
Peace comes when we live in harmony with those rhythms.

Ken Gire

The wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure.
It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing
to yield to others. It is full of mercy and good deeds.
It shows no favoritism and is always sincere.

James 3:17 NLT

Peace is not placidity: peace is
The power to endure the megatron of pain
With joy, the silent thunder of release,
The ordering of Love. Peace is the atom's start,
The primal image: God within the heart.

Madeleine L'Engle

God's peace is joy resting. His joy is peace dancing.

F. F. Bruce

Love without Limits

Before anything else, above all else, beyond everything else, God loves us. God loves us extravagantly, ridiculously, without limit or condition. God is in love with us...God yearns for us.

ROBERTA BONDI

There is no limit to God's love. It is without measure and its depth cannot be sounded.

MOTHER TERESA

With God our trust can be abandoned, utterly free. In Him are no limitations, no flaws, no weaknesses. His judgment is perfect, His knowledge of us is perfect, His love is perfect. God alone is trustworthy.

EUGENIA PRICE

Everything which relates to God is infinite. We must therefore, while we keep our hearts humble, keep our aims high. Our highest services are indeed but finite, imperfect. But as God is unlimited in goodness, He should have our unlimited love.

HANNAH MORE

I lavish unfailing love for a thousand generations on those who love me and obey my commands.

Exodus 20:6 NLT

The Love of God

Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love?
Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble
or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry,
or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death?...
No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory
is ours through Christ, who loved us.

And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate
us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels
nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries
about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can
separate us from God's love. No power in the sky
above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in
all creation will ever be able to separate us from the
love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:35, 37–39 NLT

Nothing can separate you from His love, absolutely nothing....
God is enough for time, and God is enough for eternity.
God is enough!

HANNAH WHITALL SMITH

The Meaning of Friendship

By friendship you mean the greatest love, the greatest usefulness, the most open communication, the noblest sufferings, the severest counsel, the greatest union of minds of which brave men and women are capable.

JEREMY TAYLOR

If we would build on a sure foundation in friendship, we must love our friends for their sakes rather than our own.

CHARLOTTE BRONTË

Friends are an indispensable part of a meaningful life. They are the ones who share our burdens and multiply our blessings. A true friend sticks by us in our joys and sorrows. In good times and bad, we need friends who will pray for us, listen to us, and lend a comforting hand and an understanding ear when needed.

BEVERLY LAHAYE

A good friend will sharpen your character, draw your soul into the light, and challenge your heart to love in a greater way.

Whoever loves pure thoughts and kind words
will have even the king as a friend.

PROVERBS 22:11 NCV

See How He Loves Us!

Blue skies with white clouds on summer days.
A myriad of stars on clear moonlit nights.
Tulips and roses and violets and dandelions and daisies.
Bluebirds and laughter and sunshine and Easter.
See how He loves us!

ALICE CHAPIN

Our Creator would never have made such lovely days,
and have given us the deep hearts to enjoy them,
above and beyond all thought,
unless we were meant to be immortal.

NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE

His tenderness in the springing grass,
His beauty in the flowers,
His living love in the sun above—
All here, and near, and ours.

CHARLOTTE PERKINS GILMAN

O God, creator of light: at the rising of Your sun
this morning, let the greatest of all lights,
Your love, rise like the sun within our hearts.

May they who love you be like the sun
when it rises in its strength.

Judges 5:31 NIV

True Living Devotion

Regardless of whether we feel strong or weak in our faith, we remember that our assurance is not based upon our ability to conjure up some special feeling. Rather, it is built upon a confident assurance in the faithfulness of God. We focus on His trustworthiness and especially on His steadfast love.

RICHARD J. FOSTER

When faithfulness is most difficult,
it can be most rewarding.

True living presupposes the love of God, indeed, it is itself a true love of Him in the highest form. Divine love, enlightening our soul and making us pleasing to God, is called grace. Giving us power to do good, it is called charity. When it reaches the point of perfection where it makes us earnestly, frequently and readily do good, it is called devotion.

FRANCIS DE SALES

It is love that asks, that seeks, that knocks,
that finds, and that is faithful to what it finds.

AUGUSTINE

A life devoted to things is a dead life, a stump;
a God-shaped life is a flourishing tree.

PROVERBS 11:28 THE MESSAGE

The Roots of Love

I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.

Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.

EPHESIANS 3:16–20 NLT

The love of God is broader than the measure of our mind
And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.

FREDERICK W. FABER

Desires of Your Heart

May God give you eyes to see beauty only
the heart can understand.

From the world we see, hear, and touch, we behold inspired visions that reveal God's glory. In the sun's light, we catch warm rays of grace and glimpse His eternal design. In the birds' song, we hear His voice and it reawakens our desire for Him. At the wind's touch, we feel His Spirit and sense our eternal existence.

WENDY MOORE

God defines love not as a mere human sentiment
but a divine desire for our well-being.

ROSE GOBLE

In the central place of every heart, there is a recording chamber; so long as it receives messages of beauty, hope, cheer, and courage, so long you are young.

DOUGLAS MACARTHUR

All the world is an utterance of the Almighty. Its countless beauties, its exquisite adaptations, all speak to you of Him.

PHILLIPS BROOKS

May he give you the desire of your heart
and make all your plans succeed.

PSALM 20:4 NIV

Twenty-Four Seven

I look up to the hills,
but where does my help come from?
My help comes from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.
He will not let you be defeated.
He who guards you never sleeps.
He who guards Israel
never rests or sleeps.
The LORD guards you.
The LORD is the shade that protects you from the sun.
The sun cannot hurt you during the day,
and the moon cannot hurt you at night.
The LORD will protect you from all dangers;
he will guard your life.
The LORD will guard you as you come and go,
both now and forever.

PSALM 121:1–8 NCV

We have a Father in heaven who is almighty, who loves His children as He loves His only-begotten Son, and whose very joy and delight it is to...help them at all times and under all circumstances.

George Müeller

The Goodness of God

The goodness of God is infinitely more wonderful
than we will ever be able to comprehend.

A. W. Tozer

All that is good, all that is true, all that is beautiful...
be it great or small, be it perfect or
fragmentary, natural as well as supernatural,
moral as well as material, comes from God.

John Henry Newman

We walk without fear, full of hope and courage
and strength to do His will, waiting for
the endless good which He is always giving
as fast as He can get us able to take it in.

George MacDonald

Savor little glimpses of God's goodness and His majesty,
thankful for the gift of them: winding pathways through
the woods, a bright green canopy overhead, and dappled
sunshine falling all around, warm upon our faces.

Open your mouth and taste, open your eyes and see—how good God is. Blessed are you who run to him. Worship God if you want the best; worship opens doors to all his goodness.

Psalm 34:8–9 the message

Forever Love

The LORD is like a father to his children, tender
and compassionate to those who fear him.
For he understands how weak we are; he knows
we are only dust. Our days on earth are like grass;
like wildflowers, we bloom and die. The wind blows,
and we are gone—as though we had never been here.
But the love of the LORD remains forever.

PSALM 103:13–17 NLT

The LORD is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and rich in love.
The LORD is good to all; he has compassion
on all he has made.... The LORD is faithful to all
his promises and loving toward all he has made.

PSALM 145:8–9, 13 NIV

Praise the LORD, all you nations;
extol him, all you peoples.
For great is his love toward us,
and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.
Praise the LORD.

PSALM 117:1-2 NIV

Herein is joy, amid the ebb and flow of the passing world:
our God remains unmoved, and His throne endures forever.

ROBERT E. COLEMAN

What True Love Is...

Love isn't the tingly sensation you feel when you hold someone's hand for the first time. Love isn't the breath-catching feeling you have when you know someone thinks only of you. True, lasting love comes after struggling together through the hard times, remembering the good times, and having faith that God will help you over one more hill together. True love is accepting yourself with all your strengths and weaknesses and accepting the other person in the same way.

RHONDA S. HOGAN

Romance is flattering attention.
Love is genuine thoughtfulness....
Romance is tingling excitement.
Love is tenderness, constancy, being cherished.

MARJORIE HOLMES

Love, you know,
Seeks to make happy
Rather than to be happy.

RALPH CONNOR

Love each other with genuine affection,
and take delight in honoring each other.

ROMANS 12:10 NLT

Pour Out Your Heart

I find rest in God;
only he can save me.
He is my rock and my salvation.
He is my defender;
I will not be defeated....
I find rest in God;
only he gives me hope....
My honor and salvation come from God.
He is my mighty rock and my protection.
People, trust God all the time.
Tell him all your problems,
because God is our protection.

PSALM 62:1–2, 5, 7–8 NCV

One thing God has spoken, two things have
I heard: that you, O God, are strong,
and that you, O Lord, are loving.

PSALM 62:11–12 NIV

Rest in the LORD and wait patiently for Him.

PSALM 37:7 NASB

When God finds a soul that rests in Him and is not easily moved...
to this same soul He gives the joy of His presence.

CATHERINE OF GENOA

Love in the Real World

True love is but a humble, low-born thing....
It is a thing to walk with hand in hand,
through the everydayness of this workaday world.

James Russell Lowell

When true love comes, that which is counterfeit will be recognized. For someday it will rain on the picnic, ants will sting, mosquitoes will bite, and you will get indigestion from the potato salad. There will be no stars in your eyes, no sunsets on your horizon. Love will be in black and white with no piped-in music. But you will say "forever," because love is a choice you have made.

Ruth Senter

I think true love is never blind
But rather brings an added light,
An inner vision quick to find
The beauties hid from common sight.

Phoebe Cary

Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love.

EPHESIANS 4:2 NLT

An Undivided Heart

Above all else, guard your heart,
for it is the wellspring of life.

PROVERBS 4:23 NIV

I will give them an undivided heart and put a
new spirit in them; I will remove from them their
heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh.
Then...they will be my people, and I will be their God.

EZEKIEL 11:19–20 NIV

"Which command in God's Law is the most important?"
Jesus said, " 'Love the Lord your God with all your
passion and prayer and intelligence.' This is the most
important, the first on any list. But there is a second to
set alongside it: 'Love others as well as you love yourself.'
These two commands are pegs; everything in
God's Law and the Prophets hangs from them."

MATTHEW 22:36–40 THE MESSAGE

In the deepest heart of everyone, God planted a longing for Himself as He is: a God of love.

EUGENIA PRICE

Share the Love

Love makes burdens lighter, because you divide them.
It makes joys more intense, because you share them.
It makes you stronger, so that you can reach out and become involved with life in ways you dared not risk alone.

Lord...give me the gift of faith to be renewed and shared with others each day. Teach me to live this moment only, looking neither to the past with regret, nor the future with apprehension. Let love be my aim and my life a prayer.

ROSEANN ALEXANDER-ISHAM

Open your hearts to the love God instills....
God loves you tenderly. What He gives you is not to be kept under lock and key, but to be shared.

MOTHER TERESA

I give you a new command: Love each other. You must love each other as I have loved you. All people will know that you are my followers if you love each other.

John 13:34–35 NCV

My Cup Overflows

The LORD is my shepherd;
I have all that I need.
He lets me rest in green meadows;
he leads me beside peaceful streams.
He renews my strength.
He guides me along right paths,
bringing honor to his name.
Even when I walk
through the darkest valley,
I will not be afraid,
for you are close beside me.
Your rod and your staff
protect and comfort me.
You prepare a feast for me
in the presence of my enemies.
You honor me by anointing my head with oil.
My cup overflows with blessings.
Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me
all the days of my life,
and I will live in the house of the LORD
forever.

PSALM 23:1–6 NLT

God never abandons anyone on whom He has set His love;
nor does Christ, the good shepherd, ever lose track of His sheep.

J. I. Packer

Made for Joy

Our hearts were made for joy. Our hearts were made to enjoy the One who created them. Too deeply planted to be much affected by the ups and downs of life, this joy is a knowing and a being known by our Creator. He sets our hearts alight with radiant joy.

If nothing seems to go my way today, this is my happiness: God is my Father and I am His child.

Basilea Schlink

Live for today but hold your hands open to tomorrow. Anticipate the future and its changes with joy. There is a seed of God's love in every event, every circumstance, every unpleasant situation in which you may find yourself.

Barbara Johnson

If one is joyful, it means that one is faithfully living for God, and that nothing else counts; and if one gives joy to others one is doing God's work. With joy without and joy within, all is well.

Janet Erskine Stuart

The joy of the LORD is your strength.

NEHEMIAH 8:10 NASB

Blessed by Love

God loves to look at us, and loves it when we will look back at Him. Even when we try to run away from our troubles...God will find us, bless us, even when we feel most alone, unsure.... God will find a way to let us know that He is with us in this place, wherever we are.

KATHLEEN NORRIS

Bless the LORD, O my soul,
And all that is within me, bless His holy name.
Bless the LORD, O my soul,
And forget none of His benefits;
Who pardons all your iniquities,
Who heals all your diseases;
Who redeems your life from the pit,
Who crowns you with lovingkindness and compassion;
Who satisfies your years with good things,
So that your youth is renewed like the eagle.

PSALM 103:1–5 NASB

I will send the showers they need.
There will be showers of blessing.

EZEKIEL 34:26 NLT

God, who is love—who is, if I may say it this way, made out of love—simply cannot help but shed blessing on blessing upon us.

HANNAH WHITALL SMITH

Held in His Hand

The mystery of life is that the Lord of life cannot be known except in and through the act of living. Without the concrete and specific involvements of daily life we cannot come to know the loving presence of Him who holds us in the palm of His hand.... Therefore, we are called each day to present to our Lord the whole of our lives.

HENRI J. M. NOUWEN

God promises to keep us in the palm of His hand, with or without our awareness. God has already made a space for us, even if we have not made a space for God.

DAVID AND BARBARA SORENSEN

That Hand which bears all nature up
Shall guard His children well.

WILLIAM COWPER

The God who holds the whole world in His hands wraps Himself in the splendor of the sun's light and walks among the clouds.

Behold, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands.

ISAIAH 49:16 NASB

Love Never Fails

The LORD is compassionate and merciful,
slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love.
He will not constantly accuse us,
nor remain angry forever.
He does not punish us for all our sins;
he does not deal harshly with us, as we deserve.
For his unfailing love toward those who fear him
is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth.
He has removed our sins as far from us
as the east is from the west.

PSALM 103:8–12 NLT

This I call to mind and therefore I have hope:
Because of the LORD's great love
we are not consumed,
for his compassions never fail.
They are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.

LAMENTATIONS 3:21–23 NIV

[God's] heart is the most sensitive and tender of all. No act goes unnoticed, no matter how insignificant or small.

RICHARD J. FOSTER

Divine Romance

God's holy beauty comes near you, like a spiritual scent, and it stirs your drowsing soul.... He creates in you the desire to find Him and run after Him—to follow wherever He leads you, and to press peacefully against His heart wherever He is.

JOHN OF THE CROSS

To fall in love with God is the greatest of all romances—to seek Him the greatest of all adventures, to find Him the greatest human achievement.

AUGUSTINE

The light of God surrounds me,
The love of God enfolds me,
The presence of God watches over me,
Wherever I am, God is.

In the morning let our hearts gaze upon
God's love...and in the beauty of that vision,
let us go forth to meet the day.

ROY LESSIN

You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

PSALM 16:11 NIV

Before He Made the World

Even before he made the world, God loved us and
chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault
in his eyes. God decided in advance to adopt
us into his own family by bringing us to himself
through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do,
and it gave him great pleasure. So we praise God
for the glorious grace he has poured out on us
who belong to his dear Son. He is so rich in kindness
and grace that he purchased our freedom
with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins.
He has showered his kindness on us,
along with all wisdom and understanding.

EPHESIANS 1:4–8 NLT

The God who created, names, and numbers the stars in the heavens also numbers the hairs of my head.... He pays attention to very big things and to very small ones. What matters to me matters to Him, and that changes my life.

ELISABETH ELLIOT

Promise of Love

Each time a rainbow appears, stretching from one end of the sky to the other, it's God renewing His promise. Each shade of color, each facet of light displays the radiant spectrum of God's love—a promise that life can be new for each one of us.

God's love never ceases. Never.... God doesn't love us less if we fail or more if we succeed. God's love never ceases.

MAX LUCADO

God has not promised sun without rain,
joy without sorrow, peace without pain.
But God has promised strength for the day,
rest for the labor, light for the way,
grace for the trials, help from above,
unfailing sympathy, undying love.

ANNIE JOHNSON FLINT

God makes a promise—faith believes it,
hope anticipates it, patience quietly awaits it.

Once again you will have compassion on us.... You will show us your faithfulness and unfailing love as you promised.

MICAH 7:19–20 NLT

A Sense of Wholeness

Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray.
Let petitions and praises shape your worries
into prayers, letting God know your concerns.
Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness,
everything coming together for good,
will come and settle you down. It's wonderful
what happens when Christ displaces worry
at the center of your life.

PHILIPPIANS 4:6–7 THE MESSAGE

There are two days in the week about which
I never worry. Two carefree days, kept sacredly
free from fear and apprehension. One of these days
is yesterday—and the other is tomorrow.

ROBERT BURDETTE

And now...one final thing. Fix your thoughts on
what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure,
and lovely, and admirable. Think about things
that are excellent and worthy of praise.

PHILIPPIANS 4:8 NLT

God did not tell us to follow Him because He needed our help,
but because He knew that loving Him would make us whole.

IRENAEUS

Settled in Solitude

Solitude liberates us from entanglements by carving out a space from which we can see ourselves and our situation before the Audience of One. Solitude provides the private place where we can take our bearings and so make God our North Star.

Os Guinness

So wait before the Lord. Wait in the stillness. And in that stillness, assurance will come to you. You will know that you are heard; you will know that your Lord ponders the voice of your humble desires; you will hear quiet words spoken to you yourself, perhaps to your grateful surprise and refreshment.

Amy Carmichael

We must drink deeply from the very Source the deep calm and peace of interior quietude and refreshment of God, allowing the pure water of divine grace to flow plentifully and unceasingly from the Source itself.

Mother Teresa

Whoever drinks the water I give will never be thirsty. The water I give will become a spring of water gushing up inside that person, giving eternal life.

JOHN 4:13–14 NCV

Practice Real Love

My dear children, let's not just talk about love; let's practice real love. This is the only way we'll know we're living truly, living in God's reality. It's also the way to shut down debilitating self-criticism, even when there is something to it. For God is greater than our worried hearts and knows more about us than we do ourselves.

And friends, once that's taken care of and we're no longer accusing or condemning ourselves, we're bold and free before God! We're able to stretch our hands out and receive what we asked for because we're doing what he said, doing what pleases him. Again, this is God's command: to believe in his personally named Son, Jesus Christ. He told us to love each other, in line with the original command. As we keep his commands, we live deeply and surely in him, and he lives in us. And this is how we experience his deep and abiding presence in us: by the Spirit he gave us.

1 John 3:18–24 THE MESSAGE

You will find as you look back upon your life, that the moments when you have really lived are the moments when you have done things in the spirit of love.

HENRY DRUMMOND

Always There

We need never shout across the spaces to an absent God. He is nearer than our own soul, closer than our most secret thoughts.

A. W. Tozer

God is always present in the temple of your heart...His home. And when you come in to meet Him there, you find that it is the one place of deep satisfaction where every longing is met.

Prayer is...an ever available door by which to come into God's presence.

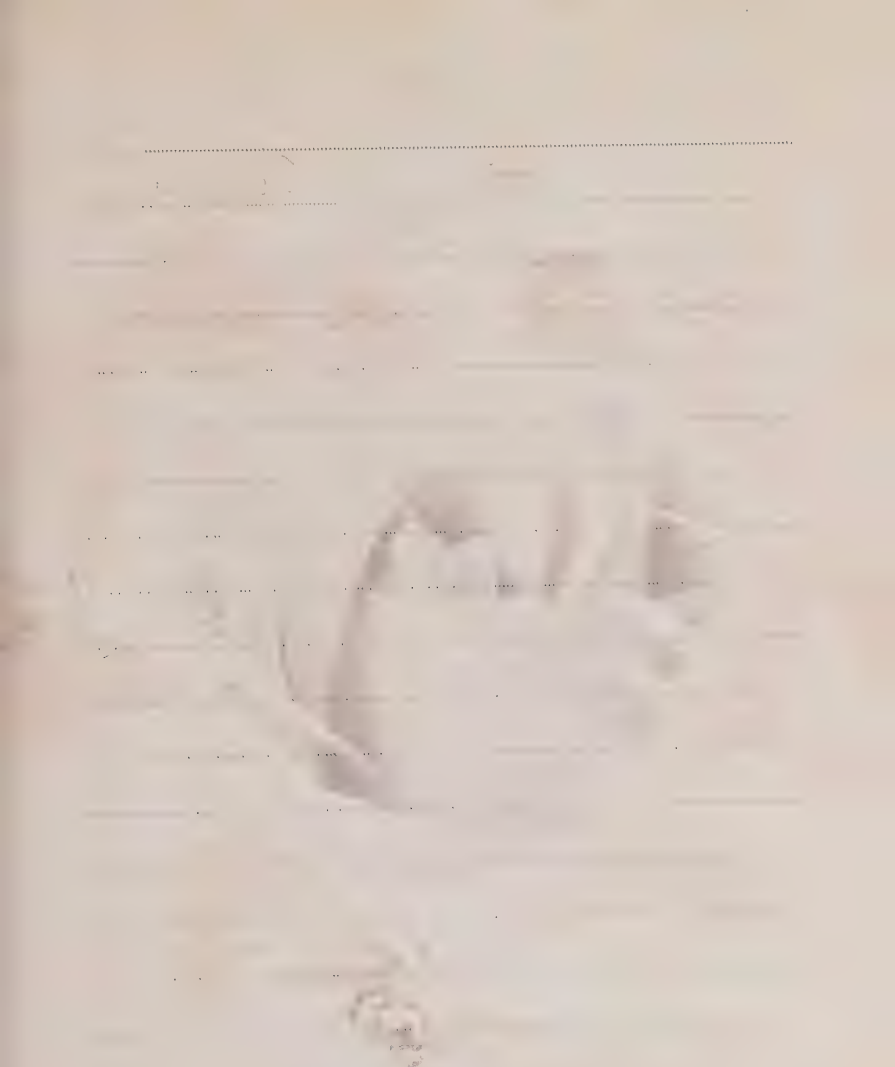
Douglas V. Steere

Always be in a state of expectancy, and see that you leave room for God to come in as He likes.

Oswald Chambers

God is the sunshine that warms us, the rain that melts the frost and waters the young plants. The presence of God is a climate of strong and bracing love, always there.

Joan Arnold



God's love, though, is ever and always,
eternally present to all who fear him.

PSALM 103:17 THE MESSAGE

God's Love for Us

This is what real love is: It is not our love for God;
it is God's love for us. He sent his Son to die
in our place to take away our sins.

Dear friends, if God loved us that much we also
should love each other. No one has ever seen God,
but if we love each other, God lives in us,
and his love is made perfect in us.

We know that we live in God and he lives in us,
because he gave us his Spirit.... And so we know
the love that God has for us, and we trust that love.

God is love. Those who live in love live in God,
and God lives in them.... Where God's love is, there is
no fear, because God's perfect love drives out fear....
We love because God first loved us.

1 John 4:10–13, 16, 18–19 NCV

Real love is always a gift from God: a gift of Himself.

EUGENIA PRICE

Indescribable Love

Could we with ink the ocean fill,
And were the skies of parchment made,
Were every stalk on earth a quill,
And every man a scribe by trade
To write the love of God above
Would drain the ocean dry,
Nor could the scroll contain the whole
Though stretched from sky to sky.

MEIR BEN ISAAC NEHORAI

We are of such value to God that He came to live among us...and to guide us home. He will go to any length to seek us, even to being lifted high upon the cross to draw us back to Himself. We can only respond by loving God for His love.

CATHERINE OF SIENNA

God has put into each of our lives a void that cannot be filled by the world. We may leave God or put Him on hold, but He is always there, patiently waiting for us...to turn back to Him.

EMILIE BARNES

Though you have not seen him, you love him...and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy.

1 Peter 1:8 NIV

He Sings Over Me

Then God promises to love me all day, sing songs all through the night! My life is God's prayer.

Psalm 42:8 THE MESSAGE

Your promises have been thoroughly tested;
that is why I love them so much.

Psalm 119:140 NLT

The joyful birds prolong the strain,
their song with every spring renewed;
the air we breathe, and falling rain,
each softly whispers: God is good.

John Hampden Gurney

The Lord your God is with you, he is mighty to save.
He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you
with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing.

Zephaniah 3:17 NIV

Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love,
that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.

Psalm 90:14 NIV

I would be always in the thick of life,
Threading its mazes, sharing its strife,
Yet—somehow singing!

ROSELLE MERCIER MONTGOMERY

The Heart of the Matter

In comparison with this big world, the human heart is only a small thing. Though the world is so large, it is utterly unable to satisfy this tiny heart. Our ever growing soul and its capacities can be satisfied only in the infinite God. As water is restless until it reaches its level, so the soul has no peace until it rests in God.

SADHU SUNDAR SINGH

God is so big He can cover the whole world with His love, and so small He can curl up inside your heart.

JUNE MASTERS BACHER

We sometimes fear to bring our troubles to God, because they must seem so small to Him who sits on the circle of the earth. But if they are large enough to worry us and endanger our welfare, they are large enough to touch His heart of love.

REUBEN A. TORREY

Be still, and know that I am God.

PSALM 46:10 NIV

Extravagant Love

Mostly what God does is love you. Keep company with him and learn a life of love. Observe how Christ loved us. His love was not cautious but extravagant. He didn't love in order to get something from us but to give everything of himself to us. Love like that.

Don't allow love to turn into lust, setting off a downhill slide into sexual promiscuity, filthy practices, or bullying greed. Though some tongues just love the taste of gossip, those who follow Jesus have better uses for language than that. Don't talk dirty or silly. That kind of talk doesn't fit our style. Thanksgiving is our dialect.

EPHESIANS 5:2–4 THE MESSAGE

To love by freely giving is its own reward.
To be possessed by love and to in turn give love away
is to find the secret of abundant life.

GLORIA GAITHER

You Are Mine

Don't be afraid, I've redeemed you. I've called your name. You're mine. When you're in over your head, I'll be there with you. When you're in rough waters, you will not go down. When you're between a rock and a hard place, it won't be a dead end—because I am GOD, your personal God, the Holy of Israel, your Savior. I paid a huge price for you...! *That's* how much you mean to me! *That's* how much I love you!

ISAIAH 43:1–4 THE MESSAGE

Our God is so wonderfully good, and lovely, and blessed in every way that the mere fact of belonging to Him is enough for an untellable fullness of joy!

HANNAH WHITALL SMITH

If God is for us, who can be against us?

ROMANS 8:31 NIV

Do not be afraid to enter the cloud that is settling down on your life. God is in it. The other side is radiant with His glory.

L. B. Cowman

Peace and Harmony

Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

Colossians 3:12–16 NIV

May God, who gives this patience and encouragement, help you live in complete harmony with each other.

Romans 15:5 NLT

Nothing can give you quite the same thrill as the feeling that you are in harmony with the great God of the universe who created all things.

James Dobson

Love Letter

The work of creating is an act of love. The God who flung from His fingertips this universe filled with galaxies and stars, penguins and puffins...peaches and pears, and a world full of children made in His own image, is the God who loves with magnificent monotony.

BRENNAN MANNING

All the things in this world are gifts and signs of God's love to us. The whole world is a love letter from God.

PETER KREEFT

It is an extraordinary and beautiful thing that God, in creation...works with the beauty of matter; the reality of things; the discoveries of the senses, all five of them; so that we, in turn, may hear the grass growing; see a face springing to life in love and laughter.... The offerings of creation...our glimpses of truth.

MADELEINE L'ENGLE

Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.

PROVERBS 3:3 NIV

The Whole Truth

God wants us to grow up, to know the whole truth and tell it in love—like Christ in everything. We take our lead from Christ, who is the source of everything we do. He keeps us in step with each other. His very breath and blood flow through us, nourishing us so that we will grow up healthy in God, robust in love.

EPHESIANS 4:15–16 THE MESSAGE

From the tiny birds of the air and from the fragile lilies of the field we learn the same truth, which is so important for those who desire a life of simple faith: God takes care of His own. He knows our needs. He anticipates our crises. He is moved by our weaknesses. He stands ready to come to our rescue. And at just the right moment He steps in and proves Himself as our faithful heavenly Father.

CHARLES SWINDOLL

Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

JOHN 8:31–32 NIV

Truth is always exciting. Speak it, then.
Life is dull without it.

PEARL S. BUCK

God Reaching Out to Us

If we are children of God, we have a tremendous treasure in nature and will realize that it is holy and sacred. We will see God reaching out to us in every wind that blows, every sunrise and sunset, every cloud in the sky, every flower that blooms, and every leaf that fades.

Oswald Chambers

The longer I live, the more my mind dwells upon the beauty and the wonder of the world.

John Burroughs

Look up at all the stars in the night sky and hear your Father saying, "I carefully set each one in its place. Know that I love you more than these." Sit by the lake's edge, listening to the water lapping the shore and hear your Father gently calling you to that place near His heart.

Wendy Moore

The heavens proclaim the glory of God.
The skies display his craftsmanship.

PSALM 19:1 NLT

He Loves to Listen

I love the LORD because he hears my voice and my prayer for mercy. Because he bends down to listen, I will pray as long as I have breath!

PSALM 116:1–2 NLT

Keep company with GOD, get in on the best. Open up before GOD, keep nothing back; he'll do whatever needs to be done: He'll validate your life in the clear light of day and stamp you with approval at high noon.

PSALM 37:4–6 THE MESSAGE

We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will. And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

ROMANS 8:26–28 NIV

When we call on God, He bends down His ear to listen,
as a father bends down to listen to his little child.

ELIZABETH CHARLES

The Rhythm of Love

Let God have you, and let God love you—and don't be surprised if your heart begins to hear music you've never heard and your feet learn to dance as never before.

MAX LUCADO

God knows the rhythm of my spirit and knows my heart thoughts. He is as close as breathing.

From the heart of God comes the strongest rhythm—the rhythm of love. Without His love reverberating in us, whatever we do will come across like a noisy gong or a clanging symbol. And so the work of the human heart, it seems to me, is to listen for that music and pick up on its rhythms.

KEN GIRE

Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace.... Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly.

MATTHEW 11:29–30 THE MESSAGE

The Greatest of These

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love.
But the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13:13 NIV

I'm telling you to love your enemies. Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst. When someone gives you a hard time, respond with the energies of prayer, for then you are working out of your true selves, your God-created selves. This is what God does. He gives his best—the sun to warm and the rain to nourish—to everyone, regardless: the good and bad, the nice and nasty. If all you do is love the lovable, do you expect a bonus? Anybody can do that.... Live out your God-created identity. Live generously and graciously toward others, the way God lives toward you.

Matthew 5:44–48 THE MESSAGE

Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

Invaluable Love

If you believe in God, it is not too difficult to believe that He is concerned about the universe and all the events on this earth. But the really staggering message of the Bible is that this same God cares deeply about you and your identity and the events of your life.... We have missed the full impact of the Gospel if we have not discovered what it is to be ourselves, loved by God, irreplaceable in His sight, unique among our fellowmen.

Bruce Larson

Be content with who you are, and don't put on airs. God's strong hand is on you; he'll promote you at the right time. Live carefree before God; he is most careful with you.

1 Peter 5:6–7 the message

God loves us for ourselves. He values our love more than He values galaxies of new created worlds.

A. W. Tozer

Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap,
they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them.
And how much more valuable you are than birds!

LUKE 12:24 NIV

Live a Life of Love

Where you are right now is God's place for you.
Live and obey and love and believe right there.

1 Corinthians 7:17 THE MESSAGE

The Lord will work out his plans for my life—
for your faithful love, O Lord, endures forever.

Psalm 138:8 NLT

We also have joy with our troubles, because we
know that these troubles produce patience.
And patience produces character, and character
produces hope. And this hope will never disappoint us,
because God has poured out his love to
fill our hearts. He gave us his love through
the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to us.

Romans 5:3–5 NCV

You were cleansed from your sins when you obeyed
the truth, so now you must show sincere love to
each other as brothers and sisters. Love each other
deeply with all your heart.

1 Peter 1:22 NLT

Love allows us to live, and through living we grow in loving.

Evelyn Mandel

Gifts of Love

To be grateful is to recognize the love of God in everything He has given us—and He has given us everything. Every breath we draw is a gift of His love, every moment of existence is a gift of grace.

THOMAS MERTON

Gratitude consists in a watchful, minute attention to the particulars of our state, and to the multitude of God's gifts, taken one by one. It fills us with a consciousness that God loves and cares for us, even to the least event and smallest need of life.

HENRY EDWARD MANNING

The impetus of God's love comes from within Himself, to share with us His life and love. It is a beautiful, eternal gift, held out to us in the hands of love. All we have to do is say "Yes!"

JOHN POWELL

Let them give thanks to the LORD *for his unfailing love.*

PSALM 107:8 NIV

Rest in His Love

I want you woven into a tapestry of love, in touch with everything there is to know of God. Then you will have minds confident and at rest, focused on Christ, God's great mystery. All the richest treasures of wisdom and knowledge are embedded in that mystery and nowhere else. And we've been shown the mystery! I'm telling you this because I don't want anyone leading you off on some wild-goose chase, after other so-called mysteries, or "the Secret."

COLOSSIANS 2:2–4 THE MESSAGE

Let the beloved of the LORD rest secure in him, for he shields him all day long, and the one the LORD loves rests between his shoulders.

DEUTERONOMY 33:12 NIV

Relax, everything's going to be all right; rest, everything's coming together; open your hearts, love is on the way!

JUDE 1:2 THE MESSAGE

The crashing wave finally reaches peace as it breaks upon the land...so our turbulent spirits find rest, as we break upon the vast shoreline of God's love.

Janet L. Weaver Smith

The Garden of His Love

A wise gardener plants his seeds, then has the good sense not to dig them up every few days to see if a crop is on the way. Likewise, we must be patient as God brings the answers...in His own good time.

QUIN SHERRER

It's only a tiny rosebud—
A flower of God's design;
But I cannot unfold the petals
With these clumsy hands of mine.
And the pathway that lies before me
Only my Heavenly Father knows—
I'll trust Him to unfold the moments
Just as He unfolds the rose.

May you be ever present in the garden of His love.

The LORD will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land.... You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.

ISAIAH 58:11 NIV

Spending Time with God

How lovely is your dwelling place,
O LORD of Heaven's Armies.
I long, yes, I faint with longing
to enter the courts of the LORD.
With my whole being, body and soul,
I will shout joyfully to the living God....
O LORD of Heaven's Armies, my King and my God!
What joy for those who can live in your house,
always singing your praises.

PSALM 84:1–4 NLT

How blessed all those in whom you live,
whose lives become roads you travel;
They wind through lonesome valleys, come upon brooks,
discover cool springs and pools brimming with rain!
God-traveled, these roads curve up the mountain, and
at the last turn—Zion! God in full view!...
One day spent in your house, this beautiful place of
worship, beats thousands spent on Greek island beaches.

PSALM 84:5–7, 10 THE MESSAGE

Listening to God is a firsthand experience.... God invites you *to vacation in His splendor. He invites* you *to feel the touch of His hand. He invites* you *to feast at His table. He wants to spend time with* you.

MAX LUCADO

Inconceivable!

Our greatness rests solely on the fact that God in His incomprehensible goodness has bestowed His love upon us. God does not love us because we are so valuable; we are valuable because God loves us.

HELMUT THIELICKE

We are so preciously loved by God that we cannot even comprehend it. No created being can ever know how much and how sweetly and tenderly God loves them.

JULIAN OF NORWICH

God has a wonderful plan for each person He has chosen. He knew even before He created this world what beauty He would bring forth from our lives.

LOUIS B. WYLY

My life is merely a whisper of the breath of God, but it *is* His breath, His grace, His life in me.

PHIL JOEL

Your thoughts—how rare, how beautiful! God, I'll never comprehend them! I couldn't even begin to count them—any more than I could count the sand of the sea.

PSALM 139:17 THE MESSAGE

Your Whole Heart

Love God, your God, with your whole heart: love him with all that's in you, love him with all you've got! Write these commandments that I've given you today on your hearts. Get them inside of you.... Talk about them wherever you are, sitting at home or walking in the street; talk about them from the time you get up in the morning to when you fall into bed at night. Tie them on your hands and foreheads as a reminder; inscribe them on the doorposts of your homes.

Deuteronomy 6:5–9 the message

In extravagance of soul we seek His face.
In generosity of heart, we glean His gentle touch.
In excessiveness of spirit, we love Him
and His love comes back to us a hundredfold.

Tricia McCary Rhodes

If...you seek the Lord your God, you will find him if you look for him with all your heart and with all your soul.

Deuteronomy 4:29 niv

To love God, to serve Him because we love Him,
is...our highest happiness.

HANNAH MORE

Love Is...

Promise Journal

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Excluding Scripture verses and divine pronouns, in some quotations references to men and masculine pronouns have been replaced with gender-neutral or feminine references. Additionally, in some quotations we have carefully updated verb forms and wordings that may distract modern readers.

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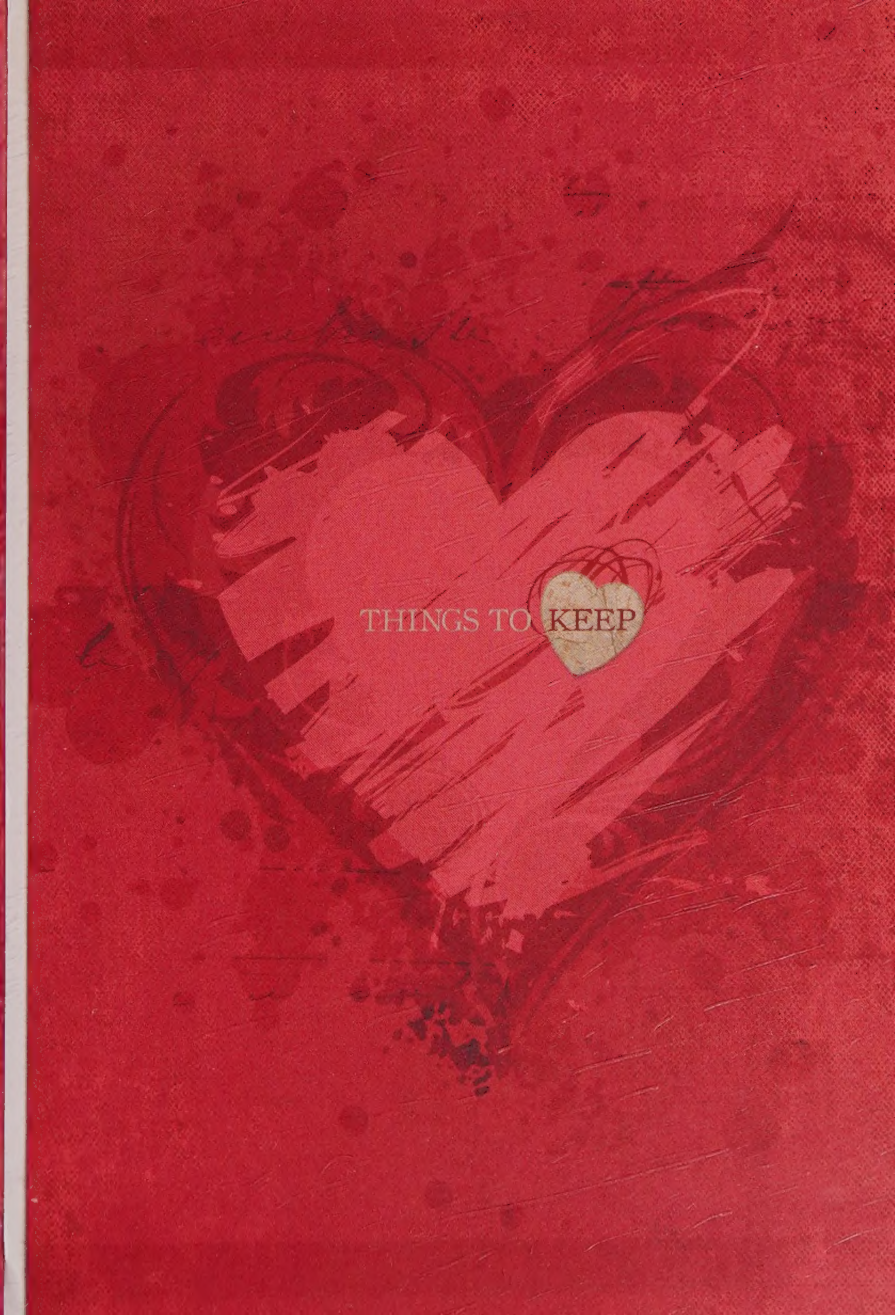
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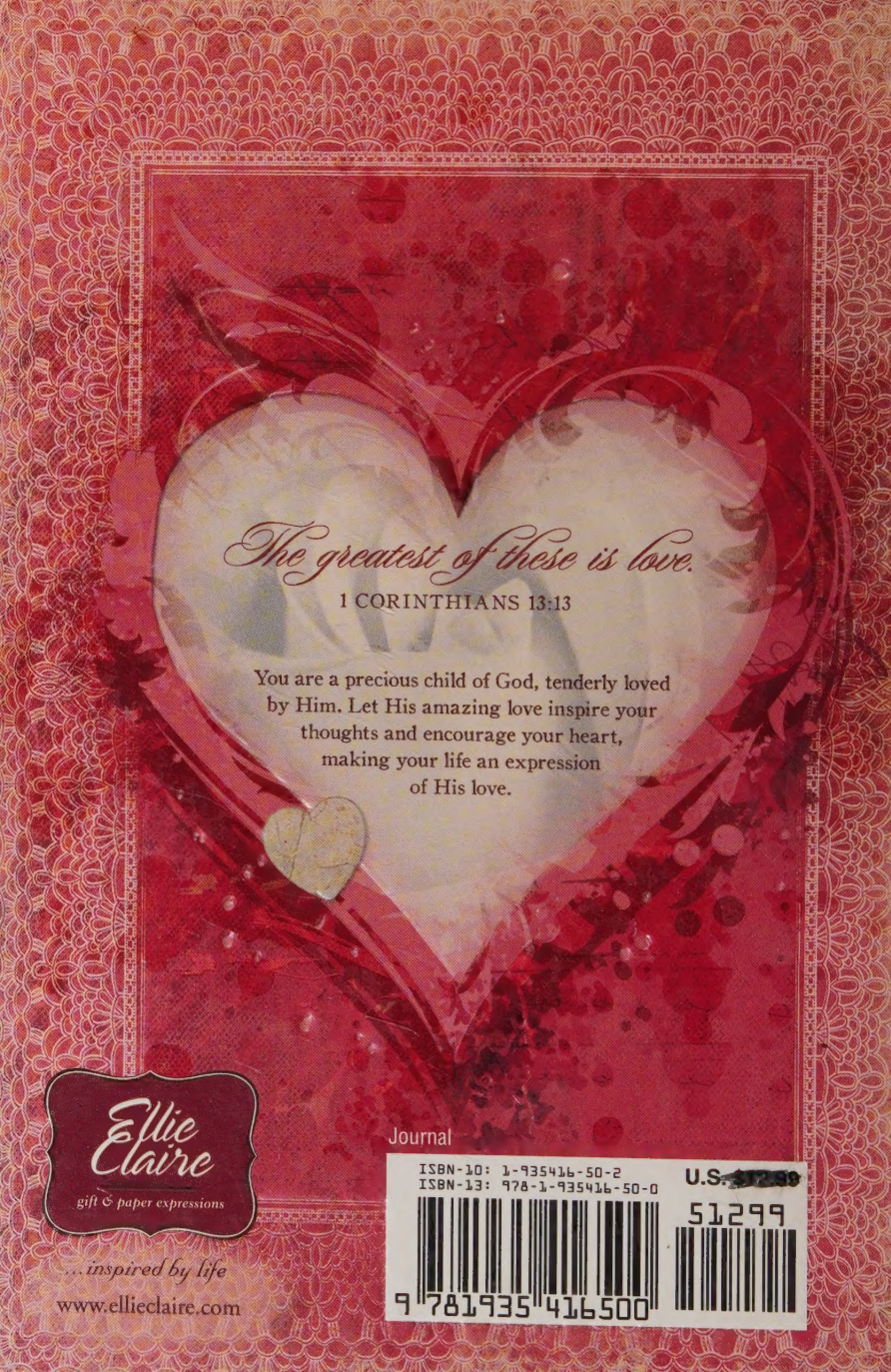
The greatest of these is love.
1 CORINTHIANS 13:13
You are a precious child of God, tenderly loved by Him. Let His amazing love inspire your thoughts and encourage your heart, making your life an expression of His love.
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